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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3325

INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE 0001

RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0810

RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO IMMEDIATE 0011

RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE 1935

RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 1463

RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK IMMEDIATE 0169

RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 0007

RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE 0002

RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 0009

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0940

RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE 0146

RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV IMMEDIATE 0341

RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE 0001

RUEHPC/AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE 0047

RUEHMB/AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE 0045

RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 0001

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4633

RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 0002

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 0015

RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 0001

RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE 0050

RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE 0070

RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE 0066

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0591

RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE IMMEDIATE 0833

RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 0265

RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 0237

RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 1451

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2065

RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 0770

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0003

RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 0811

RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA IMMEDIATE 0022

RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 4069

RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 0279

RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 0511

RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 4298

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1075

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0003

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 4898

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000212

SIPDIS

TO COURTNEY MUSSER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/2020

TAGS: PREL TO PHUM UNGA IT

SUBJECT: ITALY: GOLDSTONE FOLLOW-UP ACTION

REF: STATE 15722

Classified By: Political-Military Counselor J. Liam Wasley for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

¶11. (C) On February 25, Poloff discussed reftel points with Middle East Office Director Davide La Cecilia regarding the impending vote on the Palestinian-drafted UNGA resolution related to the Goldstone Report. While the Italian position is the same as before (Italy voted "no" on the October 16 HRC resolution and "no" on the November 5 UNGA resolution), he said "a major realignment is taking place" in Europe in a post-Lisbon effort to increase the EU's relevance. The Europeans, he said, are attempting to avoid a "triple split" (some no, yes, some abstain) and are working with the Palestinians to "soften" the text so that all Europeans might abstain. La Cecilia said he had no instructions at the moment, and that the final decision would ultimately be a

political one. As a red line, he said, "we will not accept abstention unless there is unanimity on abstention." He thought an across-the-board abstention would be very difficult to get, however, given that many states "see no reason not to vote yes," as they had done before. If efforts to bring all Europeans to abstain together fail, La Cecilia suggested the GOI would likely vote no.

¶2. (C) In the GOI view, La Cecilia said, the current resolution is already "softer," more procedural, and contains less offensive rhetoric than prior resolutions: it does not formally endorse the Goldstone report but rather recalls resolution 6410 of last November; it does not, according to him, refer the report to the UNSC, but only to the UN Secretary General. Nor does it propose a timeline for investigations, or refer to Operation Cast Lead.

THORNE